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BOROUGH OF FARNWORTH.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

1947

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman : ALDERMAN J. A. DEAN.

Vice-Chairman : COUNCILLOR J. W. GEERE.

Members :

The Mayor (Alderman H. G. Holland, J.P.)

Alderman W. McManus, C.C.

Councillor J. Callaghan.

„ T. Abbott.

„ J. Heathcote.

„ Mrs. M. A. Kershaw.

„ G. Nuttall.

„ C. W. Ramsbottom.

„ Mrs. E. Stevenson.

„ R. J. Whalley.

„ J. M. White.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

Chairman : COUNCILLOR MRS. E. STEVENSON.

Vice-Chairman : COUNCILLOR T. ABBOTT.

Members :

The Mayor (Alderman H. G. Holland, J.P.)

Alderman W. McManus, C.C.

„ J. A. Dean.

„ A. Jones, J.P.

Councillor R. J. Whalley.

„ J. W. Geere.

„ J. Heathcote.

„ Mrs. M. A. Kershaw.

„ C. W. Ramsbottom.

Co-opted Members :

Mrs. Cooper.

Mrs. Crabtree.

Mrs. Ralphson.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health :

R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON. M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist :

D. C. RACKER. M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.O.G., F.R.C.S.
(Resigned 31/3/47).

T. N. HART, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.O.G. (Appointed 1/4/47).

Ophthalmic Surgeon :

JOHN MORRISON. M.B.CH.B. (also School Oculist).

Aural Surgeon :

W. B. McKELVIE. M.D., CH.M., F.R.C.S., D.L.O.
(also School Aurist).

Dental Surgeon :

G. C. ROYLEY, L.D.S. (also School Dental Officer).

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

A. H. S. LEWIS. Cert. R.S.I., S.I.E. Jt. Board, R.S.I.,
Food Inspection.

Sanitary Inspector :

R. HILTON. Cert. R.S.I., S.I.E. Jt. Board, R.S.I.,
Food Inspection.

Health Visitors (also School Nurses) :

Miss A. PENDLEBURY. A.R.S.I. Certs. M.C.W. and C.M.B.
(Retired 31/12/47).

Miss H. E. S. HOLMES. S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. (R.S.I.).

Miss J. M. MILLAR. S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. (R.S.I.).

Miss B. I. DICKINSON. S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. (R.S.I.)
(Appointed 7/7/47).

Clerks :

T. SHAW (part-time).

Miss M. M. HELME (part-time).

Miss S. HAMPSON (part-time) (Appointed 4/10/47).

**TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND MEMBERS OF THE
COUNCIL.**

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year 1947.

The year was exceptional in that the disease of Infantile Paralysis occurred throughout the country in increased numbers and 13 cases occurred in Farnworth, all between August 18th and October 21st. The disease in this area affected the infants chiefly, the oldest case being a girl of 11 years of age and 9 of the cases occurred in children of 4 years and under, 2 of these being less than 6 months old. There was one fatal case, the last to be notified.

The Infant Mortality rate of 37 is the lowest on record in the history of the town. This is a fitting testimony to the council's Maternity and Child Welfare Service and to the Health Visitors who, with the aid in the clinics of the invaluable voluntary workers, bear the brunt of the work.

This service now passes to the County Council. Those members of the Borough Council and the staff who have made this service one of increasing efficiency will watch its future progress with great interest.

As always, I have had the help and encouragement of the chairmen and members of the Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Committees and the loyal co-operation of the staff.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area = 1504 statute acres.

Population	...	27,430	...	...	Estimated mid-1947.
		28,717	...	...	1931 Census.
Number of inhabited houses, 1931	...	...	...	...	7,104
Number of inhabited houses, 1947	...	...	...	...	8,480
Rateable Value (1st April, 1947)	...	...	...	...	£140,963
Sum represented by 1d. rate	...	...	...	...	£555

Vital Statistics for the year 1947.

BIRTHS.

				Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	315	275	590
Illegitimate	...	...	...	6	11	17
Total Births				321	286	607
Still Births	...	...	...	6	6	12
				Farnworth	England & Wales	
Birth-rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	22.1	20.5	
Still Births per 1,000 total births	...	...	...	19.0	—	
.. .. 1,000 population	...	...	...	0.43	0.50	

CAUSES OF DEATH IN ALL AGES IN 1947.

Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	32
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	16
Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	...	1
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculosis—respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	8
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	57
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	2
Heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	86
Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	14
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	...	...	54
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	18
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	3
Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	...	10
Premature birth or congenital defects	...	...	...	...	...	13
Childbirth	...	...	...	...	...	1
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	1
Road traffic accidents	...	...	...	...	...	6
Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	...	...	8
Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	...	1
Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	1
Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	1
All other causes	...	...	...	...	...	22
Total				...	...	358

DEATHS.

	Males	Females	Total
Deaths of infants under 1 year :			
Legitimate	14	7	21
Illegitimate	—	2	2
Total	14	9	23
	Farnworth	England & Wales	
Infant Mortality Rate ...37 per 1,000	41 per 1,000		
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	1
Deaths from Whooping cough	...	...	1
Deaths from Measles	...	...	1
Premature Birth	...	...	4
Death Rate per 1,000 population (Farnworth)	...	...	13·0
Death Rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)	...	...	12·0

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

HOSPITALS FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

(1) Smallpox.

Ainsworth Smallpox Hospital under the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board receives for treatment cases of smallpox from this area, should they occur.

(2) Other Infectious Diseases.

As in former years, infectious diseases other than smallpox are treated in Ladywell Hospital, Salford, or the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Bolton.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

A twenty-four hour ambulance service is maintained for the districts of Farnworth, Kearsley and Little Lever. During the year, the ambulances travelled 16,178 miles removing accidents, urgent illnesses and cases for periodic treatment to hospitals in Manchester, Salford and Bolton.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

During the year, 32 swabs were examined for the presence of the C diphtheriae. All were negative.

Details of the examination of milk samples are given later in this report. Examinations were carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, and the Royal Infirmary, Bolton.

MIDWIVES.

There are four resident midwives in the area, under the supervision of the Lancashire County Council. Close co-operation is maintained between these midwives and the Maternity Services of the Borough. The midwives attend the Ante-natal Clinics held weekly in the Farnworth Clinic.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

The Clinic, Albert Road, Farnworth, serves all the clinics appertaining to the School Medical Service of the County Council and the Maternity and Child Welfare Services of the Borough.

CLINIC TIME-TABLE.

SCHOOL MEDICAL CLINIC : Every morning 9—12, except Sunday.

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER'S CLINIC : Every Wednesday morning 10 a.m.—12. Friday (special appointment) 11 a.m.—12.

INFANT WELFARE CLINIC : Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 2—4 p.m.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S CLINIC : Tuesday, 2-30—3-30 p.m.

IMMUNISATION CLINIC : Tuesday, 2—2-30 p.m. Friday, 10—11 a.m.

OBSTETRICIAN'S ANTE-NATAL CLINIC AND POST-NATAL CLINIC : Thursday, 2—4 p.m.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) General.

The Borough Council makes an annual contribution to the funds of the District Nursing Association, a voluntary body affiliated to the County Nursing Association. This Association operates the general home nursing in the district.

(b) Infectious Diseases.

The Borough Council imburse the Nursing Association on a per visit rate when cases of puerperal pyrexia, pneumonia, etc. require nursing at home.

The Health Visitors and School Nurses are ever ready to advise on sick nursing in the homes.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

1. HEALTH VISITING.

The health visiting in the Borough is undertaken by four Health Visitors, who are also School Nurses.

Number of visits paid during the year :—

Visits :—First visits	...	...	...	...	618
Re-visits, under 1 year	...	...	...	...	3399
Children 1—5 years	...	...	...	...	5258
Expectant Mothers :—					
First visits	...	...	...	...	340
Re-visits	...	...	...	...	537
Infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	71
Special visits	...	...	...	...	290
Total					10513

CARE OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

Health Visitors supervise the care of illegitimate children in the area. If the Health Visitor was unable to undertake the required supervision the case would be reported to the Lancashire County Council to be dealt with by a qualified Almoner appointed under the County scheme for the care of illegitimate children.

No cases were dealt with during the year.

CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS.

The particulars relating to premature babies born in the Borough during 1947 are given below :—

- (a) The number of premature babies notified as born during the year to Farnworth resident mothers ... 45
- (b) The total number of premature babies notified during 1947 who were born :—
 - (i) at home ... 19
 - (ii) in hospital or nursing home ... 26
- (c) The number of those born at home :—
 - (i) who were nursed entirely at home ... 18
 - (ii) who died during the first 24 hours ... 1
 - (iii) who survived at the end of one month ... 18
- (d) The number of those born in hospital or nursing home :—
 - (i) who died during the first 24 hours ... 1
 - (ii) who survived at the end of one month ... 23

As far as possible, arrangements are made for the hospital accommodation of prematurely born children and those born at home have the ready assistance and advice of the district Health Visitor.

2. CHILD WELFARE CLINIC.

The Child Welfare Clinic is held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons from 2—4 p.m.

Total number of children under 5 years of age who first attended at the Centre during the year and who, on the date of their first attendance, were :—

(i) Under 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	473
(ii) Over 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	36

Total number of children under 5 years of age who attended at the Centre during the year and who, at the end of the year, were :—

(i) Under 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	442
(ii) over 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	697

The total number of attendances of all children was 8,087, thus giving an average attendance of 58 per session.

At the Medical Officer's Clinic 557 consultations were given during the year. During the month of September when Infantile Paralysis was prevalent, the Child Welfare clinics were closed.

3. ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINIC.

This clinic is held on Monday and Thursday afternoons at 2 p.m. and during 1947 the Consultant Obstetrician attended 60 Sessions.

The total of 1453 attendances represented 624 expectant mothers. Of this number 295 were having their first babies (primiparae). The age group of the primiparae are given in the following table.

Under 20	20-25	25-30	30-35	35-40	Over 40
21	131	102	24	13	4

Hospital accommodation for expectant mothers is limited and is only afforded to those requiring it on medical grounds or where unsuitable home conditions exist. During 1947, there were 191 expectant mothers admitted to Townleys Hospital under the Council's scheme. Of the 624 mothers in attendance at the ante and post-natal clinics 462 were confined during the year under review. The following gives particulars of these cases :—

			Primiparae	Multiparae
Confinement at home	...	...	80	150
„ „ Townleys Hospital	..	..	129	90
„ „ other Institutions	...	...	7	6
			—	—
	Total	...	216	246
Vertex presentation	...	...	210	242
Breech presentation	...	...	8	7
Other presentation	...	...	1	—
Normal labour	...	...	182	236
Prolonged labour	...	...	7	2
Induced labour	...	...	1	—
Instrumental delivery	...	...	20	3
Caesarian section	...	...	6	5
Ante-partum haemorrhage	...	...	2	1
Intra-partum haemorrhage	...	...	1	1
Post-partum haemorrhage	...	...	4	4
Placenta praevia	...	...	1	1
Placenta adherent	...	...	5	4
Ruptured perineum	...	...	29	11
Albuminuria	...	...	2	2
Thrombo phlebitis	...	...	—	8
Eclampsia	...	...	2	—
Miscarriage	...	...	—	6

Condition of child :—

Alive and well	...	...	214	243
Still-born	...	...	3	4
Died within 1 month	...	...	2	2

During the year 475 expectant mothers making 3,712 attendances were seen at the Clinic by the Health Visitors. These were in turn referred to the Consultant Obstetrician's Clinic.

There was one maternal death during the year. The cause of death was :—

- (a) Pulmonary Embolism.
- (b) Femoral vein thrombosis.
- (c) Pregnancy (normal confinement).

8 Post-natal cases attended the clinic during the year.

4. CONVALESCENT HOMES.

The Lear Home of Recovery, West Kirby, receives post-natal cases requiring convalescence.

5. HOME HELPS.

In 21 instances during the year Home Helps were supplied. The conditions of employment and services are comparable with the scheme operating in the adjacent County areas.

6. EMERGENCY UNIT.

An emergency unit is provided by St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, for use in the Borough when required. This service was not needed during 1947.

7. INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

There were no cases on the register during the year under review.

8. DENTAL TREATMENT.

For expectant and nursing mothers.

No. of mothers referred for treatment	...	...	...	38
„ „ „ treated	...	...	...	27
„ „ attendances	...	...	...	57
„ „ permanent fillings	...	...	...	24
„ „ extractions	...	...	...	44
Other treatment to permanent teeth	...	...	...	31

For pre-school children.

No. of children referred for treatment	...	...	...	29
„ „ „ treated	...	...	...	27
„ „ attendances	...	...	...	37
„ „ fillings	...	...	...	10
„ „ extractions	...	...	...	22
Other treatment to temporary teeth	...	...	...	5

9. MINOR AILMENTS.

218 pre-school children attended the morning clinics for treatment, making 965 attendances during the year.

10. THROAT, NOSE AND EAR DEFECTS.

Dr. W. B. McKelvie, Aural Surgeon to the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee and to the Education Committee, held 6 sessions during the year. 10 pre-school children were examined and treated.

3 pre-school children had operative treatment at Townleys Hospital.

11. ORTHOPAEDICS.

Particulars relating to the treatment of Farnworth pre-school children at the Kearsley Orthopaedic Clinic during the year, 1947.

No of individual children attended	...	...	...	15
Total number of attendances made	...	...	...	22

Orthopaedic defects :—

Infantile paralysis (lower limb)	2
" " (upper limb)	1
Congenital rudimentary and malformed limbs ...	1
Pes planus	2
Congenital Genu Valgum... ..	3
Hammer Toes	1
Pink disease	1
Congenital metatarsus varus	3
No abnormality found	1

12. EYE DEFECTS.

During the year 45 pre-school children were examined by the Ophthalmic Surgeon of the School Medical Service. Glasses were necessary in 8 cases.

13. CLEANLINESS.

The improvement in the hygiene of the home and the school child continues to be maintained.

There is a marked decrease in the incidence of head lice in school children as the result of the persistent supervision of the Health Visitors and School Nurses.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.

There were 13 cases of acute poliomyelitis which occurred between August 18th and October 21st, 1947. The age groups showed that the disease had the highest incidence in the lower ages of childhood.

Under 6 mths.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-8	8-9	10-11
2	3	1	3	-	2	-	1	-	1

Two cases age 5 and 3 years were regarded as abortive poliomyelitis and developed no obvious paralyses. The remaining 11 cases were all affected in one or more limbs and were treated at Biddulph Orthopaedic Hospital with the exception of the last case recorded, which was the 10 year old girl. This girl was despatched to Ladywell Hospital, Salford, as a case of respiratory paralysis in extremis. The hospital was notified to have iron lung ready for the case and a Health Visitor accompanied the child in the ambulance to hospital. Although admitted direct to iron lung the child lived only a few hours.

All cases were seen by the Medical Officer of Health before admission to hospital and the ready co-operation of the general practitioners of the district in notifying suspected cases to the Medical Officer of Health without delay resulted in early admission to hospital of confirmed cases.

DIPHTHERIA.

There was only 1 case of diphtheria during the year. This was notified from Townleys Hospital and belonged to Bolton.

DIPHTHERIA ANTI-TOXIN.

Anti-toxin is available in 10,000 units free to general practitioners for patients resident in the Borough. During the year 50,000 units were issued.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The table below gives the immunisation figures at the end of the year. The clinic for immunisation was held weekly.

Number of children completely immunised up to 31/12/47.

Age at 31/12/47. i.e. born in year.	Under 1947	1 1946	2 1945	3 1944	4 1943	5 to 9 1938-42	10 to 14 1933-37	Total under 15
No. immunised.	11	179	234	360	368	1441	1531	4124

Estimated mid-year population 1947.

Ages 0/4...2,370

Ages 5/14...3,400

Percentage of children immunised.

Ages 0/4...48.6%

Ages 5/14...87.4%

The Health Visitor and School Nurse is still the main medium of propaganda for immunisation.

It is found that personal interviews with parents by the Health Visitor is much more effective than newspaper or poster propaganda.

SCARLET FEVER.

Out of 39 cases of scarlet fever notified during the year, 20 were treated in hospital. There were no deaths due to this disease.

PNEUMONIA.

There were 31 cases notified and there were 7 deaths.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

There was only one case of puerperal pyrexia belonging to Farnworth. In addition, there were 2 cases notified from Townleys Hospital, which is situated within the Farnworth Borough, but the patients concerned were from Bolton.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

There were 4 cases notified from Townleys Hospital belonging to outside districts.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1947.

Scarlet fever	39
Diphtheria	1
Acute primary pneumonia	31
Puerperal pyrexia	3
Ophthalmia neonatorum	4
Cerebro-spinal fever	2
Erysipelas	3
Measles	423
Whooping cough	99
Acute poliomyelitis	13

TREATED IN HOSPITAL.

Scarlet fever	20
Acute poliomyelitis	13
Cerebro-spinal fever	1
Whooping cough	7
Acute primary pneumonia	1
Measles	13

TUBERCULOSIS.

Cases notified :—

Respiratory	8
Non-respiratory	4

The treatment of tuberculosis is undertaken by the County Council.

SCABIES.

This contagious disease has been less prevalent this year than in the immediate preceding years.

No. of pre-school children treated	7
„ „ „ „ attendances	14
„ „ school children treated	33
„ „ „ „ attendances	59
„ „ adults treated	Nil

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

The town is supplied with water by Bolton Corporation. The water is derived from upland gathering grounds and is filtered and treated before going into supply. It is soft in nature and satisfactory in quality and quantity. All dwellings in the Borough are supplied directly with water.

The water supplied to Farnworth is filtered at four filter stations. Normally samples of both the untreated and filtered water are taken for full bacteriological examination each week and for full chemical analysis each month. Special examinations and analyses are made as required.

The following is a summary of the results of bacteriological examinations, chemical analyses, etc. supplied by Bolton Waterworks Department :—

No. of bacteriological examinations of the raw water ...	176
Results—Generally filtration and treatment necessary.	
No. of chemical analyses	44
Results—Generally filtration and treatment necessary.	

Water going into supply, where treatment is installed :—

No. of bacteriological examinations	176
Results—Generally of excellent quality, absence of B. Coli in 100 mils—100%.	
No. of chemical analyses	44
Results—Generally of excellent quality.	
No action was necessary in respect of any form of contamination.	
No liability to plumbo-solvent action.	

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

This is almost entirely on the combined system. There is one main sewage disposal plant at Hall Lane Sewage Works and a subsidiary plant at Lark Hill.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Accommodation at the end of 1947 :—

Number of privy middens	3
„ „ closets attached to these middens ...	9
„ „ pail closets	5
„ „ fresh water closets	9168
„ „ waste water closets	255
„ „ dry ashpits (excluding middens) ...	Nil
„ „ movable ashbins for refuse	8752
„ „ houses on water carriage system ...	8561

Despite the prevailing difficulties 14 waste water closets were converted to fresh water closets.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

There is a weekly collection of all household refuse in Farnworth and at the same time a collection of salvage. The refuse is taken to a tip situated away from all dwelling houses, where controlled tipping is in operation. This work is carried out by three covered motor vehicles and the staff of the Cleansing Department under the Borough Surveyor.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING 1947 (INCLUDING HOUSING).

No. of premises visited	2312
Number of visits :—	
Housing and nuisances	3407
Dairies	40
Farms	50
Ice Cream Premises	81
Food Preparing Premises	76
Bakehouses	123
Butchers' Shops	84
Fish Fryers	57
Shops	94
Factories	160
Rat Infestations	343
Disinfections	26
Disinfestations	31
Infectious diseases	66
Overcrowding	103
Public Baths	9
Public Conveniences	19
Miscellaneous	93

Defects or nuisances : No. discovered 2929, No. abated 2666.

No. of notices served : Preliminary 1193, Statutory 300.

Legal proceedings were taken in 9 cases of non-compliance with Statutory Notices. Abatement orders of the Court were made, together with costs, against the defendants.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

	Inspections	Defects and Contraven- tions	Remedied
(a) Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences ...	94	2	2
(b) Public Health Act, 1936, relating to conditions in offices, i.e., ventilation, sanitary conveniences, etc.	Nil	—	—

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

5 observations were taken during the year.

No action was necessary as a result of these observations.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

	No. of Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecu- tions
1. Factories with mechanical power ...	57	1	—
Factories without mechanical power ...	144	—	—
Other premises ...	—	—	—
2. No. of defects found ...	30	1	—

The 201 inspections carried out under the Factories Act, 1937, comprised visits to cotton mills, woodwork factory, engineering works, foundries, joiners' shops, bakehouses with mechanical installations, etc.

The inspections include at least one visit per year to every building coming within purview of the Act.

Defects in the 30 instances were remedied forthwith by informal action.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Particulars of action taken during the year.

No. of houses disinfested :—

(a) By Hydrogen Cyanide (carried out by Contractor)	
(1) Council houses ...	Nil
(2) Other houses ...	Nil

(b) Insecticides (D.D.T.)

(1) Council houses	...	...	...	...	2
(2) Other houses	...	...	...	...	46

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

There are 8 dairy farms in the district with approximately 210 cows. 3 of the farms are licensed for the production of "Accredited" milk. All are frequently inspected for sanitary defects and to ensure that the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Orders are complied with.

50 visits were made to farms and 40 to dairies.

Most of the milk supply in Farnworth is pasteurised in a well equipped modern dairy which receives careful supervision and frequent inspection.

The pasteurising plant at this dairy during 1947 was of the "Holder" type. Plans were in hand at the end of the year for the replacement of this machine with a "High Temperature, Short Time" pasteuriser.

EXAMINATION OF MILK SUPPLIES.

58 samples of raw and pasteurised milk were examined during the year. 15 of these (25.9%) were found to be bacteriologically unsatisfactory.

The producers were informed of the results and subsequent samples were satisfactory.

The tubercle bacillus was found in two samples of milk and the appropriate steps for the removal of the infected animals were taken.

(b) EXAMINATION OF ICE CREAM.

There are 7 manufacturers in the town, each having a separate room or building used exclusively for ice cream manufacture and equipped with suitable plant for the purpose.

81 inspections of these premises were made during the year.

23 samples of ice cream were sent for bacteriological examination. These were provisionally graded on the results of the methylene blue reduction test which was recommended by the Ministry of Health as a suitable test for checking the hygienic conditions of manufacture. As a result of the grading of the

samples of the 7 manufacturers, 4 were satisfactory, 2 unsatisfactory and one manufacturer did not produce ice cream in the year under review.

Steps were taken to improve the grading of the unsatisfactory producers. Co-operation between the trade and the Department was excellent.

(c) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

All premises where food is stored or exposed for sale are inspected frequently, 425 such inspections being made during the year.

The following food was condemned and surrendered during the year : 23 cwts. 30 lbs. meat, 302 tins assorted foods, 363 tins milk, 25½ stone fish, 980 lbs. dates, 15 lbs. sugar, 48 lbs. cheese, 6 lbs. jellied veal, 6 lbs. ox tongue, 85 lbs. frozen egg, 8 lbs. chocolate, 3 lbs. strawberries, 5 lbs. bacon, 350 lbs. cake, 30 lbs. figs, 8,400 lbs. dried milk, 1 lb. margarine, 2 lbs. jam.

The methods of handling and transporting meat from abattoirs at Manchester to the butchers' shops in the town continue to be unsatisfactory and below the standard laid down in the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924. If the present policy of meat distribution is to continue, the meat should be transported in well designed, covered vehicles, staffed by men trained, clothed and equipped to handle this important food hygienically.

(d) ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

The County Council is the Authority under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, and samples are taken by the County Sanitary Officer in collaboration with the local Sanitary Officer.

Particulars of samples taken during the year :—

Milk	...	...	...	116
Other articles	...	...	...	17

All the dry goods samples were certified by the County Analyst to be genuine, but the label of a Cake and Pudding Mixture bore no declaration of composition of the product. The vendor agreed to return his stock to the manufacturers.

On analysis of the milk samples, 12 were found to be deficient of 8%, 1·6%, 10%, 10%, 5%, 6%, 10%, 6%, 3%, 13%, 8·3% and 13% fat respectively and 2 to be deficient of 1·7% and 4·7% solids-not-fat, the freezing points indicating the presence of 2·5% and 5·1% of extraneous water, respectively.

In view of the fact that most of these samples were obtained informally and the deficiencies were comparatively small, no action was taken apart from the procuring of further samples from the same sources.

RODENT CONTROL.

During the year the work of rodent control was continued. Two part-time rodent operatives were employed. A maintenance treatment of the sewerage system of the town was carried out in which 683 manholes were test baited. 109 of these were rat infested. Poisoned bait was laid and an estimated kill of 1,260 rats was made.

Corporation refuse tips and sewage works are kept under constant observation.

All rat infestations discovered in the district are dealt with promptly, private dwellings being treated free of charge. Treatment of business premises is charged on the basis of men's time and material used.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(1)	By the local authority	...	...	...	203
	(including 19 temporary houses)				
(2)	By other local authorities	...	...	...	Nil
(3)	By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	Nil

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	539
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose					1620
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	...		5
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose					10
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...			5
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	534

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	318
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3. Action under statutory powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	6
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners	6
(b) By local authority in default of owners	—

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	154
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(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :

(a) By owners	149
(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	4
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	Nil
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(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1
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(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil
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4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding :—

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	100
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	...				179
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	...				739
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...		57
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	68
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	...	229

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

1. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AS TO HOUSING CONDITIONS.

85% of the privately owned houses in the town are of the 4-roomed cottage type, with separate yards and external water closets. Most of them are more than 50 years old, are built in monotonous rows, lack baths, hot water systems and larders. Continual repairs are needed to these houses which have suffered from lack of maintenance during the past few years.

2. SUFFICIENCY OF HOUSES.

Approximately 700 families are living in lodgings in the district and overcrowding is common. Even where the house is not overcrowded according to the admittedly low standard of the Housing Act, 1936, difficulties arise where two or more families have to share one house.

The number of dwellings needed is approximately 500 three-bedroom type.

3. FITNESS OF HOUSES.

Notices for repairs are continually being served by the Health Department. Difficulties exist arising from the shortage of materials and the high cost of repair work. Nevertheless, of 2929 defects found during the year, 2666 were remedied.

